Amounts Restored to Remitters in Six Years.

HOW ORDERS ARE LOST !

"Unclaimed funds" is always an alluring title to the public, and perhaps there is no more popular error, which has gained credence by going the rounds of the press, than that there lies on deposit in the vaults of the treasury of the United States in Washington the sum of about \$2,500,000 accumulated by gradual increase in annual deposits of the amounts of thousands of unpaid and unclaimed money orders, awaiting claimants, like funds held by the English courts of chancery, to which thousands of Americans believe themselves to be entitled.

No doubt this belief has caused many persons to rummage through their effects stored in dusty garrets in the hope of turning up an old, forgotten money order or two with which to assault this "fund" to the extent of the figures thereon.

Should their search be rewarded by the finding of an old money order, investigation as to its prior payment will be promptly made by the Post Office Department upon its receipt in Washington, and if it be found to be unpaid the government will pay the amount to the rightful claimant. 13 the government is always ready to meet its money order obligations upon demand and proper identification of the parties.

Uncle Sam Pays His Just Dues.

The government of the United States is its money order transactions does not avail itself of technicalities nor lapse of time. as is the case with some of the foreign pestal administrations. For instance, in Great Britain money orders lapse as payable vouchers after a certain number of years, and the funds thus obtainable revert to the royal treasury, amounting, it is understood, to as high as \$50,000 in a year.

In discussing this mythical "fund" in this country and the disposition of unclaimed and unpaid money orders with a Star representative this morning Superintendent J. T. Metchalf of the money order system said:

of the public to suppose that there is a segregated 'fund' of this kind. Under the acts of Congress of 1882 and 1894 the department deposited at various department deposited at various times \$2,250,000 of funds corresponding with the amount of unclaimed money orders, and no doubt the impression thus got abroad as to a segregated fund. This money was covered into the treasury in the usual man-ner, applied to the expenditures on the account of postal affairs, and not kept 'tied up' to meet any demands which might be made of the nature under discussion. Unclaimed money orders are paid out of the ordinary and usual postal funds on hand by regular system. "A large portion of the above-named fund.

which was covered into the treasury, ac-crued from the amounts of unpaid money orders existing prior to 1882. At about that time there was a radical departure from the then existing policy of the department as to the payment of money orders. Then information concerning the payment of a money order was withheld from the payee and the remitter, and neither was informed as to its non-payment. This was found to be a mistake, and the amounts of these un-claimed money orders necessarily accumulated, as I have stated.

Every Effort Made to Effect Payment, "Of late years every practicable effort has been made to effect the payment of orders within the shortest possible period after the date of issue. The department at present transacts a money order business of nearly \$1,000,000 a day. It is estimated that the laverage money order is paid within five days after issue, the average order amounting to about \$7. There is age order amounting to about ... in transit, therefore, of unpaid money ormasters are required to notify all payees of unpaid money orders at their offices within thirty days after the receipt of the advice, and some go to even more energette measures to have the people call and get their money. The result is gratifying alike to the public and the department, and the number of unpaid orders has been enormously decreased.

But the department does not stop here its, effort to place the money either in the hands of the payee or the remitter. At the end of a year from its date, postmasters send in all of the unpaid advices on hand, technically known as 'invalid' ad-The department then undertakes the task of trying to get the money into the hands of the remitter, no stone being left unturned to accomplish this purpose. This repayment, when the remitter is

located, is accomplished by what is known as a 'warrant.' These invalid advices averag: about \$5,000 a month, demonstrating that out of the \$575,000,000 of money orders annually issued and paid at present, ment is effected at post offices of all but about \$60,000, and this sum is greatly scaled down by payments effected by the means of warrants issued in Washington.

Reaching the People's Pockets. "How well this is done may be shown

briefly. Postmasters have transmitted to the department invalid advices to the amount of \$317,183. In 1895 it restored to remitters \$27,000, and each succeeding year the annual amount has increased until last year we were enabled to hand back as high as \$88,000, or in all since 1895, \$311,000, leaving at present outstanding only a few thousand dollars.

"The department considers that the issue of an order is a contract to transfer the amount thereof to the payee, the consideration being the fee, and the public may rest assured that if the contract cannot be carried out the amount will be refunded to the remitter if it is possible to locate him. Money order funds are regarded in the light of 'trust funds,' to be honored when-ever the corresponding orders are presented, and ignorance of the holders of such obli-gations will not be construed as laches on the part of the patrons of the system. It is the people's system and it is operated in the interest of the people.

"Private companies and banks go to no such extremes to place the money in the hands of the people as does the govern-ment. If you do not call, you do not get the money. Private concerns have millions of unclaimed deposits. The government desires to effect the interchange of money among the people with the greatest pessible dispatch, and these few figures reflect the thoroughness with which we succeed in doing so.

How Money Orders Are Lost.

"Why are not money orders presented for payment? Oh, for various interesting reasons. Many persons, particularly theatrical people, showmen, traveling men and others on the go, buy orders payable to themselves, which are not known of and never presented by reason of the death of their owners. Other orders are lost in shipwrecks and accidents on the rail when the orders are burned or lost, and they disappear from a variety of causes, from forget-fulness to indifference to ask for payment. "During the close and shortly after the civil war thousands of orders were lost by reason of the death of the holders, and the same is true during the late Spanish war for the same cause. An an example, an American engineer recently died in a hos-pital in China, and \$1,000 in money orders over a year old were found among his offects. Had he lived they were better than money, for had they been stolen or lost none but himself could have cashed them, as they were payable to him. We have restored the amount to his heirs. The largest single amount which has been found upon one person came under the observation of the department recently. An American who died in Mexico was found to have fifty-six orders of \$100 each upon him, or \$5,600, and this sum will be paid to the proper par-ties. This case is a remarkable one.

"Public school teachers are instructing their puplis in the use of the money order system. They take their classes to the post office and buy orders for a cent or two, and instruct their puplis how to secure the orders, and how they are paid at a distant of the fact that the great state of the Roman Catholic Church represents the increase of several years rather than that of one. But in any case it is apparent that the fire-fighting members in at least as rapid a proportion as the country is gaining people.

They take their classes to the post of one. But in any case it is apparent that the fire-fighting machines it needs, and the fire-fighting machines it needs.

Seventh and K Sts.

Before-Stock-Taking Reductions Create These Big Bargains

Under the rigid rule of clearance stocks must be reduced to the smallest possible point before Stock-taking. Prices are at ebb-tidethe lowest of all the year. Where lots are small or lines broken the sacrificing is even more emphatic. Tomorrow's store news is of absorbing interest to every one-for it tells in convincing terms of unprecedented savings. Store open until 9 o'clock tomorrow night for your convenience.

Seventh and K Sts.

Blk. Brilliantine Waists, \$ 1 worth \$2.50, for Only

Manufacturers must have pre-inventory clearances, too - as witness this great and good lot of fine Waists, which have come to us to sell at this remarkably low price. Our buyer closed out the manufacturer's entire balance stock. Were we but allowed to mention his name here, such crowds would come as would make short work of the entire lot. For these Waists are noted for best workmanship, correct style and highest quality.

They consist of fine quality black brilliantine, beautifully made -and all are lined throughout with mercerized neva-silk. Have tucked fronts-some with tucks running all the way down-and an-

other style with tucks forming yoke. All sizes in the lot from 32 to 44.

These Waists were never intended to sell under \$2.50-yet tomorrow you have a chance to buy them for less than original wholesale cost. Choice at \$1.29.

Half Price Hosiery Sale.

A weeding out sale of the lines that show too big a surplus. Stock-taking must not find them here-and we have made the prices so low that you will find buying irresistible. You can get the best grades of Hosiery at EXACTLY HALF usual cost if your buying is done here tomorrow.

12 C. for 25c Hosiery

Ladies' Hose, in black and tan, Rembrandt dand Richelleu ribbed, plain black cotton and liste; and also fancy patterned Hose. All sizes.

Not a single pair in the entire lot sold less than 25c. Tomorrow for half price—12½c. pair.

Marie Product 50c. Wesley 50c. In black

Merie Back and Tan Cotton Half Hose, in Men's Regular 50c. Woolen Sox, in black, tan and natural; some have silk 25c. spliced sole and heel. Reduced to.... 25c.

Children's Fast Black "WEARWELL" Hose, with English pocket heel, which insures a perfect fit, with corresponding increase in wear and comfort; plain and corduroy 121/2C.

Men's Black and Tan Cotton Half Hose, in medium and heavy weights; all 12 cc. Ladies' Very Fine Grade Hose of lace lisle, in black and colors; sik-plated lisle; fine plain lisle in handsome boot patterns; others in lace and embroidered effects, as well as brilliant lisle. Regular 75c. and \$1 cc.

Men's 50c. Neckwear, 29c.

The Men's Department will be the center of attraction tomorrow, when the news of this great big bargain gets around. Fifty dozen High-grade All-silk Neckwear, in the very latest colorings and most fashionable shapes, including the popular Imperials, reversible Four-in-Hands and Ascots, in plain colors-and plain black Silks and Satins. Regular 50c. Silks-never sold for less-Saturday for 29 cents.

Men's Fine French Ribbed Underwear, both Shirts and Drawers to match; made of fine Sea Island cotton, perfect fitting and extra well finished. All sizes. Sold for 75c. 49c.

both shirts and drawers to match; shirts are taped at neck and double cuffs; drawers are extra well finished; all sizes. Spe- 48C.

Choice of any 25c. Suspender in our regular stock, including the well-known Police 19C.

Men's 50c. Heavy Fleece-lined Underwear; both shirts and drawers to match; shirts are taped neck and pearl buttons; drawers are finished with double crotch and allished with double crotch and allished with double crotch and allished seams; mest all sizes. Special 37C. Men's Camels' Hair and Natural Wool Underwear; shirts and drawers to match: shirts are silk taped and ribbed bottoms; drawers tapes; broken sizes. Sold for 89c. 55c.

BEFORE-STOCK-TAKING REDUCTIONS IN CHILDREN'S WEAR.

Misses' and Children's Plaid Worsted Dres with full blouse effect waists, trimeribbon braid and buttons. Lined ribbon braid and buttons. Lined throughout. Sizes 3 to 12 years. Regular \$1.25 value. Reduced

Misses' and Children's Worsted Dresses, of All-wool Cashmere and Serge; one and two-piece suits. Lined throughout. One style has full blouse waist, with taffeta silk yoke. Large bretelles over shoulders, trimmed with fancy braid, ribbon and buttons. Another style is a Blouse Sult, of All-wool Serge, with deep sailor collar and shield, trimmed with deep sailor with white braid. Sizes \$1.08 SPECIAL.

Children's Cloth Coats, in red, blue, mode and cadet; heavily lined; large collar, trimmed with lace, fur and ribbon; sizes 2 to 6 years. Reduced from \$4.98

More Wrappers Worth up to \$2:00-Tomorrow for 98c

Still fresh in the minds of our customers is the great Wrapper sale of a fortnight ago-whose enormous success marked a new record in Wrapper selling. That sale embraced a maker's entire stock -including all the Wrappers in course of production, as well as the stock on hand. We contracted for ALL-and now comes along the final 20 dozen-just completed-and fresh from the dressmaker's hands. The sale of these takes place tomorrow-good news to hundreds of women who came too late to secure a Wrapper or two from the first lot.

They are all of the most desired sort, with all the charm of newest style and prettiest design. In the ever-so-popular pinks, light blues, old rose, reds, cardinal and navy-of handsome toned Persian striped effects. Materials of finest quality Flannelette and French Flannelle. Tastefully trimmed with narrow, fancy, Persian bands on yoke and collar, and double row of Persian trimming on cuffs. All have deep flounces and dressmaker fitted linings.

There's every size among them. Again tomorrow you have an opportunity to buy these fine Wrappers, worth up to two dollars, for

Deepest Pre-Inventory Shoe Sacrificing.

The wise merchant prefers to count money than Shoes at stocktaking. We are resolved to make clearance of the great bulk of our winter stock-and prices are marked without care for cost or regard for value. Tomorrow's price-quotations are the lowest ever named for Shoes of like quality. Every pair is fully "INSURED"-no matter what the price.

Ladies' Shoes of Vict Kid, Chrome Kid, Box Calf and Patent Leather; all weights. Lace or button styles. All shape heels. All sizes. Our regular \$2.00 and \$2.50 lines. "INSURED." Reduced to "INSURED." Reduced to
Fifteen styles of Ladies' Shoes, comprising
Enamel Kid, Ideal Kid, Box Calf, Velour, Vici
Kid, Vassar Kid and Patent Leather. Hand
welt and hand turned. All styles of heel and
toe. Button and lace. Every size. Included
are the Heavy-sole Skating Boots. "INSURED."

Regular \$3.00 and \$3.50
Values. Reduced to.....
Eight styles of Ladies' Shoes, in Kidskin and
Box Calf, lace or button;
extension soles. Solid leather throughout. Every size. extension soles. Solid leather throughout. Every size. Regular \$1.75 value. Reduced to.....

Misses' and Children's Shoes, of Vici Kid, Box Calf and Patent Leather; lace and button. Extension or light-weight soles. Sizes 8½ to 2. "INSURED." Regular \$1.25 and \$1.50 values. Reduced to.....

Ladies', Misses' and Children's House Slippers, Boys', Misses' and Children's Cloth and dersey Leggins; and also Ladies' Tailor-made Broadcloth 10-button Overgaiters, Worth 69c., 37c., and \$1.00, Reduced to...

BEST CORSETS AT 69c. SATURDAY.

An important Corset sale for Saturday-Offering choice of the best known and most popular ing choice of the best known and most popular makes at this special price. Heavy French coutil, in short, medium and long-straight-front styles, with correct short-hip effect. Top and bottom trimmed with lace. Included are "R. & G.," "C. H.," "American Lady," "Thompson's" and others equally as well known. All sizes from 18 to 30. Saturday for 69c. for choice.

39c. VEILINGS, 25c.

Here are the new Vailings for winter wearand the popular "Jacadaw" Vells, with large dots. Black and leading colors. Qualities sold everywhere else at 89c. yard-for 25c. yard.

CLEARANCE OF GLOVES, 50c.

We've mustered the several lines of Gloves that show the biggest surplus—and marked them for quick exit tomerrow. About 600 pairs in all—including our famous "Percy" Glove—the best ever sold under the dollar mark. Black, tan, red, gray, mode and brown. All sizes from 5% to 7%. Choice at 50c. pair, Regular 39c. Golf Gloves, in plain colors and fancy Scotch effects. Also Kayser's Electro-fleece 2-clasp Gloves. 22c. Regular 39c. value—for......

39c. & 45c. Ribbons, 25c. Special for Saturday—Guaranteed best quality Satin Liberty and Double-faced Satin Ribbons, up to 5 inches wide, for 25c. a yard. Usual prices 39c. and 45c. yard. Every color you may wish for—the newest and best shades only.

Satin-back Velvet Ribbons. Number 9 Satin-back Velvet Ribbons, so popular for Belts and Rosettes which sells regularly at 23c. yard-here 14.C. Number 12, same quality-regularly 29c.-offered Saturday for 17c. yard.

Deepest Sacrifices in Cloaks and Furs.

As stock-taking draws near we redouble our efforts to get this stock down to the minimum level. Prices are reduced and values sacrificed as never before. But it's wise loss-selling. We have just had the biggest and most successful season in our history-and we are now content to close out remaining lots at fractional prices without thought of profit.

Entire Stock of Raglans Cut

Choose from almost our entire stock in these lots. All are deeply reduced—as you can readily see Choose from almost our entire stock in these lots.

Ladies' Regular \$12.50 Raglans, in black and Oxford; half satin lined. Tight-fitting backs. Tailored and finished in best style. Reduced to.

Ladies' Regular \$16.50 and \$18.00 Raglans, consisting of fine Kersey, Venetian and Thibet Cloths, is black, Oxford, tan. castor and other fashionable shades \$10.98 tight-fitting or lose-tight-fitting or lose-back styles-for.

All are deeply reduced—as you can readily see.

Regular \$22.00, \$25.00 and \$28.00 Raglans, of finest grade Broadcloth-Kersey—handsomely tallored and fluished. Tight-fitting back, half-tight-fitting back feets. Colors are tan, castor. Oxford and black. For Misses' Raglans, with tight-fitting backs—finely tallored—half satin lined—half satin lined—hal

Furs at Fractional Prices.

Black Skunk Opossum Scarfs, with \$2.98 animal talls, sold for \$5.50. NOW. Real Marten and Mink Searfs, with fluffy tails, sold for \$7 and \$8, \$4.98 Genuine Mink and Marten Fur Scarfs, with trakhan Fur Capes, Sold for \$25. \$15.98 clusters of heavy tall; sold for \$10, \$7.98 Go at..... German and American Isabella and Sable Boas, with heavy long tails, sold for \$7.50

Extra fine American Light Isabella Boas long and full, sold for \$22, go \$12.98 Electric Seal Jackets, with Skinner's guaranteed lining, were \$29.50, \$21.00 30-inch Electric Seal Capes, with real marten fur collar and edging. Also As-

Genuine Nearseal Jackets, handsomely lined with satin duchesse. Regular \$29.50 price, \$39.50. Reduced to......

Jackets, Skirts, &c., Reduced

Walking Jackets, in 27-inch length-Kerseys, in black and castor. Reduced from \$6.50 27-Inch Box Coats, tan, caster and \$8.48 black. Were \$12.00 and \$15.00, at.. \$8.48 42-inch-long Kersey Coats, in tan and castor, all satin lined. Reduced from \$15.00 \$7.98 42-inch fine quality Kersey Coats, finished with tailor strap trimmings. Tan, castor and black. Reduced from \$18 \$11.75

Dress Skirts of Venetians and Cheviots, plain stitched and with taffeta trimmed flounces; also Walking Skirts, in Oxford, bine and \$3.98 plack Thibet. Reduced from \$5.00 to \$3.98

Close=to=Cost Reductions in Boys' Clothing.

The most emphatic reductions ever known in Boys' Clothing are the rule. The best bargain time of the entire year is at hand. You can clothe the youngsters more economically than at any time within our memory. A few price details follow-that are certain to bring you here tomorrow.

\$1.98 for Boys' Regular \$3 and \$3.98 Suits.

The one item will show the trend of the sacrificing. A big lot of Boys' Vestee Suits, for boys from 3 to 10 years, Manly styles, in peat The one item will show the trend of the sacrificing. A big lot of Boys' Vestee Suits, for boys from 3 to 10 years. Manly styles, in neat patterned cheviots, worsteds and cassimeres, as well as plain blue cloths. Stylishly made and carefully fluished. Regular \$3.00, \$3.50 and \$3.98 values, for \$1.08.

Boys' Navy Elue Sailor Blouse Suits, in sizes 3 to 10 years; all-wool serges and wide-wale worsteds; trimmed with slik embroidery and slik braid; pants lined with silesia. Regular price, \$5.00—na store, ever sold better for the price. Reduced to...

Boys' Regular \$5.00 Navy Blue Chinchilla
Storm Reefers; made of best "Germania"
chinchilla; lined with Italian cloth, and
have large stora collars;
double-breasted style;
\$2.98

| Regular \$3.00, \$3.50 and \$3.98 values, for \$1.98.
| A big lot of Boys' Raglans and Overcoats,
gathered for quick selling romorrow; in Oxford gray and brown; sizes 4 to 12 years;
smartly made and tailored
in best fashlon. None sold
under \$5.00-sand the mafortity were \$6.50. Rednood
for the property of the prop

Boys' Shirts, with two collers (1 = .20c. Boys' 50c. Knee Pants, for 37c. Boys' 50c. Golf Caps, for

point. Many people prefer to invest their savings in money orders rather than in a

The Security of the System.

"Payments are now effected ninety per cent quicker than ever before. No advantage is sought to be taken of the public and it is a reflection of credit upon our American institutions that the public have such faith in the government. It cannot be expected that the intricacies of the money order system can be understood by all, especially by foreigners and the uneducated. They know that when their money passes over the counter of an American post office that the government will cheerfully do the rest toward getting it into the hands for whom it is intended, either at home or abroad, or that they will get it back with-

"That the aggregated increase of money orders issued last year over the preceding year amount to nearly \$39,000,000, out of an aggregate of \$294,000,000, attests the popularity of our American methods of fostering the needs of the people in the transmission of money in comparatively small sums from one to another.'

BLOOD TEST OF GUILT.

Striking Instance of Superstition in a Chinese Mixed Court.

From the New York Sun.

An instance of the prevalence of superstition among the better class of Chinese, even in Europeanized communities, is supplied by a recent trial before the mixed court at Shanghai. Magistrate Chang was sitting. An English assessor was present. and counsel appeared on both sides. The case was one in which a native detective was accused of abducting a girl betrothed to another man. The question before the magistrate to decide was whether the accused should be arraigned on a civil or a

criminal charge. All the witnesses, even the girl herself and her mother, declared that the man had not maltreated her. But Magistrate Chang was of another opinion, and he commanded that the mother be beaten in order to extract the confession he was sure she was withholding. This was futile, of course, as the poor woman had nothing to confess. Then the accused man, who was already on his knees, took oath in Chinese fashio by breaking a saucer. Most solemnly he protested that his relations with the girl had been proper. Still the magistrate was not satisfied and he demanded another test. The girl's forefinger was first cut and the blood therefrom allowed to drop into a bowl of water provided by the court. The detective's finger was next cut and the same proceeding carried out. The magistrate then held that as the blood mixed the detective was guilty and remanded him

Religious Growth.

From the New York Mail and Express. There is significance in the fact that, as cording to the statistics of membership of the churches of the United States compiled by Rev. Dr. Carroll, who was in charge of the religious statistics of the federal census of 1890, the membership of the various religious bodies of the country at the end of the year 1901, over that at the end of 1900, had increased in larger preportion than the population of the republic in the same period. That is to say, the population of the country increased, be-tween 1890 and 1900, at an annual rate of 2.18 per cent, while according to this show-ing church membership has gained in the last year by 2.67 per cent. It is probable as Dr. Carroll suggests, that a consider able part of this apparent platively greater gain in church member hip is due to

PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE

NECESSITY FOR NEW APPARATU RECOGNIZED BY LEGISLATORS.

Representatives Discuss the Needs of the Department and Approve Appropriations.

The urgent need of at least three new fire steamers to replace the three old and worn-out engines at present in service, but of slight practical good at a conflagration, and the editorial in The Star recently calling attention to prompt action on the part of Congress to replace the old apparatus, was a matter of discussion among members of Congress at some of the hotels uss! evening.

There was a complete unanimity of sentiment that whatever may be the cuts in the appropriations for the District by the committee on appropriations, that an extra item should be included in the bill providing for the new steamers, and also, on the part of some members, all other needs that may be necessary to supply the fire department with whatever apparatus it may require to place it upon a much better footing than at present to meet the ordinary and the extraordinary demands which may at any moment be made upon it to fight fires. Immediate Action of Vital Necessity.

"It is imperative for the protection of the lives and the property of those in this city that all reasonable demands by the fire department should be granted by Congress without hesitation," said Representative Julius Kahn of California to a Star reporter. "I observed the editorial in The Star as to the disabled and worn-out steamers, and I both regret and am surprised to learn that such is the case. No the matter of its fire fighting facilities. It doesn't pay at all. In San Francisco, we are liberal in our treatment of our fire department, and we have one of the best in the world. Not only are we proud of it, but we are proud of the fact that some of the best fire fighting machines now in use were invented and originated with us. The rapid hitching harness in use all over was invented there, as was the water tower, and the Hayes truck of almost universal use. Economy in providing fire apparatus has been proved to be false economy of the most reckless kind. Too much is at stake. It won't do. I am sure that Congress will not pass by any recommendations which may be made by the Commissioners. If it is shown, as The Star sets out, that Wash ington is sadly in need of fire apparatus, let us all devoutly hope that it may never be said again. If it be shown that Wash-ington needs five steamers instead of three, let the city have them."
"Most emphatically am I in favor of a

perfect fire department for the capital." said Representative Tawney of Minnesota. "In my town of 25,000 inhabitants, Winona, we take the utmost pride in our fire de-partment, and we have a splendid water pressure, and all the apparatus we need, and it is kept in fine order, with the result that our fire losses are very small.
"We must not lose sight of the fact that
our magnificent public buildings, to say our magnificent public buildings, to say nothing of our fine private structures, are practically at the mercy of a bad fire without adequate apparatus and a good water pressure. The loss of one of our executive departments with its priceless records would be a blow to the nation as well as the city of Washington. I am sure that the matter is not fully understood in Congress, else there would be no question as to enough apparatus and men to man it. By all means a good fire department if not other things."

tive Dovener of West Virginia. "I believe in paying well the brave fellows who turn out at all hours of the night, ever ready to sacrifice their lives to save those of others and their property. I have not gone into the question as to this point with suf-ficient fullness to say how they rate with

ington are not paid in equal proportion, I am in favor of giving it to them.
"I trust and believe that there may be no doubt on this highly important question. None should arise. This city has great buildings to protect against fire which cannot be suitably protected except by a large and well-equipped fire department. If the department is in need of apparatus or men, I trust that there will be paratus or men, I trust that there will be no delay in supplying any defficiency."

"It is a short-sighted policy on the part of any legislative body which does not fulfill to the utmost all the requirements of a fire department," said Representative Gibson of Tennessee, "and I cannot believe that Congress will not give heed to any reasonable recommendation which the District committee may make in the premises. I, for one, will most gladly vote for any recommendation that the committee

may deem expedient to make for an in-

crease in the fire-fighting apparatus of

the paid fire departments of other

of large size, but if the firemen of Wash-

Washington, for we all know the urgen event of an extensive conflagration. A prominent member of Congress said that while he believed the House as a whole was in favor of giving the city all and even more than it asked when it came to the fire department, and that the com-mittee on District affairs would recommend that the fire department be placed upon a proper fire-fighting efficiency, the demands upon the appropriation commit-tee were so many and diverse that the citizens of Washington should strongest pressure to bear upon that committee to no longer cut the appropriations for a suitable fire department until the present department had been raised to a much greater state of efficiency as regards the number of steamers and trucks than at

Water Pressure and New Apparatus.

"The cutting out of the appropriations for the District of the item of, I think \$500,000 for a new and larger water main through the business district of the city," he said, "was a serious mistake, but I suppose there is no help for it. Washington has yet to suffer a severe conflagration, but when it has had one, and blocks of buildings are laid waste, there will be no further demand for big water mains and plenty of apparatus to use them, for the city will be treated to such an object les-son, as have other reities, that Congress son, as have other edities, that Congress will of its own motion appropriate enough money to prevent, so far as fire-fighting machinery may do R; a recurrence of the distaster. Such is the history of all cities, and it will be well in may be remote.

"If the committee on appropriations could have witnessed how splendidly the firemen fought the Pope building fire and the fire on Indiana average some time ago, and saw the inadequacy of the water pressure at these fires, they would have experienced a change of milities on the question of water and water mains.

a change of milité on the question of water and water maître. The change of the big department buildings burn, and it is a standing marvel that none have as yet gone up in smoke, it would become strikingly apparent that the fire department of Washington must be made and kept particularly strong. The walls of one or two of these buildings might withstand the flames, but the interiors would be completely gutted. buildings might withstand the flames, but the interiors would be completely gutted. A building like the pension office, for in-stance, with its highly inflammable con-tents and great court for the suction of draft would be swept by the flames with-out an extraordinary force of counteract-ing water, and it would be a toss-up, at "Certain improvements may be delayed, but when you want a fire engine at a burning house you want it quick, and if it is a big fire, you want a lot more ctill quicker, and plenty of water behind them."

Mrs. Bula Abbey, wife of a young mer-chent near Sparta, Tenni, is dead as the re-sult of pulling out one of her eyes in a fanatical and literal interpretation of the

FINE PROSPECT FOR A MOST PROS-PEROUS SEASON.

Inquiries for Accommodations Coming -Building Boom On.

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star. ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Jan. 22, 1902. Clear, crisp, sunny weather has been the rule here the past week or two, tending to make the beach and drives delightful. Golf, riding and driving are popular and visitors who indulge in out-of-door exercise find that it tints their cheeks with the glow of health. The boardwalk crowd is large and imposing and many prominent society people are seen daily on the famous promenade. The brilliant days have been ending with the disappearance of the suninthesea on a range with the Longport beach. Later in the season the sun moves behind the city before it sinks to rest and gives very little opportunity to enjoy the true beauties of a sunset in the sea. Just now the dying day has all the features that make the sight in mid-ocean so beau-tiful. Sea and land are aflame with the scarlet rays of the orb of day as it disappears in the western horizon.

Washington's birthday, Lent and Easter are being talked about by hotel men. They have been comparing notes and learn that many persons, covering a wide expanse of territory, are already preparing to visit Atlantic City either at one period or the other. More inquiries for rooms and more engagements have been made than were expected, and consequently the hotel men are happy over the prospective flood tide of visitors shoreward. These letters come from Canada, the far west and the south, as well as from the east. Without exception the same story is told of there being every promise of a greater season of prosperity in store for the resort this spring than ever before.

Boardwalk Improvements. The project of moving the uptown boardwalk seaward is under way and steps have been taken to put the city in possession of all riparian grants along that section of the ocean front without expense to the its the riparian commission from selling grants to private parties along the beach, except under certain conditions, one of which is said to be the consent of the muicipality. City council has now directed the mayor to give such consent in the name of the city, it being agreed between the owners in question and the local authori-ties that when the former have come into possession of such grants they are to transfer the same to the municipality by park act deeds, through which medium the city is gradually coming into possession and absolute control of all the strand oceanward of the inner line of the board-walk. An ordinance is also before the council for the rebuilding of the Inlet and Chelsea sections of the promenade de-All who realize how necessary it is that Atlantic City's reputation as a health resort should be jealously guarded are happy over an event of the past week. The board

of health, long a political body, and the sanitary committee of the city council had been at loggerheads for eight years, but they have settled all their differences and they have settled all their differences and resolved to work amicably for the city's welfare in the future. The health board also, for the first time in many years, organized unanimously and elected a competent staff of inspectors without regard for their political affiliations. The health code is to be rigorously enforced in future and all that can be done by the health authorities to make the city more attractive will be accomplished.

CHEER AT ATLANTIC CITY days ago Capt. Daniel Giberson landed the biggest codfish ever caught on the Jersey coast. The monster was five feet in length,

> eighty-eight pounds. Its roe weighed eleven pounds and its mouth measured twenty All over the island building activity is increasing. Scores of new houses are being erected in Ventnor and Chelsea along the speedway and the reclaimed meadow land everywhere dotted with cozy cottages.

The Hotel Agnew is to be built at Chelsea by Philadelphia and local capitalists and is to be opened July 1. It is to cost \$250,000 be conducted as an up-to-date hotel and sanitarium. Prominent physicians in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Pittsburg are interested in

three feet in circumference and weighed

Prince Henry of Prussia is to be formally invited by Commodore Louis Kuehale of the Atlantic City Yacht Club and other prominent German residents to spend a day at the resort while he is here in the cast.

Seashore Guests. Justice Harlan of the United States Supreme Court is at Haddon Hall. He is accompanied by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Richard Harlan of Chicago. They will remain here for several weeks.

J. C. Harrison and M. Edson of Washington are located at the Brighton. Jesse Brown of the national capital is sojourning at the Windsor. Theodore Stanton, W. E. Crist, Miss Wilkins and Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Wilkins of Washington are spending several weeks at

the Luray. Charles W. James of Washington is a guest at the Normandie. Rev. and Mrs. C. Smith and family of Washington are stopping at Haddon Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Newman and Miss Ruth Newman of the national capital are passing the season at the Belmont. Mr. and Mrs. G. Nixon of Washington are late arrivals at the Morton

George A. Mills, jr., a retired business man of Washington, is located at the Tray-Mr. and Mrs. George H. Bliss and Miss Ida Bliss of Washington are pleasantly domiciled at the Brexton for an extended

A. M. Little and A. B. Davis of Washing-ton are registered at the Dennis. Louis Hooper of Washington is a guest at

Unsafe Theaters. From Harper's Weekly.

in an investigation of how far the theaters why so many ships are never heard of of New York are built within the requirements of the fire laws, and to just what they go to sea with obsolete or uncorrected extent the regulations of the department are obeyed by the managers. Serious cases of over-crowding have come to the attention of the public of late, and there is no lack of evidence that it has been rather luck than management that has kept us from appalling panic, if not worse disaster. It would be no hard task for the average theater-goer in New York to count up into double figures the number of playhouses in this city from which, in case of fire, or even an alarm of fire, escape without serious loss of life would be impossible, and we have one manager who openly boasts of the rapidity with which his theaters have been built—a rapidity which is not calculated to inspire confidence in the safecalculated to inspire conndence in the safe-ty of his structures. At the moment we do not propose to go into specific instances of the theaters which are a constant men-ace to the safety of all who enter their doors, but the subject is one to which the authorities might well give the most searching attention, for the day may come, as it came in Brooklyn some years ago. as it came in Brooklyn some years ago, when a terrible indictment will lie against some one for a fallure to avert an appall-ing but easily conceivable catastrophe.

therities to make the city more attractive will be accomplished.

A Monster Cod.

While fishing from the sloop Admiral Schley several miles off this city a few have your hair cut."—Pick-Me-Up.

MOROCCO'S YOUNG RULER, Mulai-Aziz Seems to Be Open to Ideas

of Progress. From the New York Sun. Though the Sultan of Morocco has occu pied the throne since the death of his father in 1894 he has been a ruler in fact only for a year and a half. Still scarcely out of his boyhood, for he is only twenty years old, the absolute power he has now assumed was exercised, during his minority, by his grand vizier, Sid Ahmed,

who kept in force the fanatical policy of

the Mohammedan extremists. When Mulai-Aziz came to the throne a mere lad, it was said that he had already exhibited unusual brightness of intellect and a great desire to know about the peoples, customs and government of foreign countries. It was mentioned as an indica-tion of his tendencies that he had be-friended a young Frenchman, Delbrel, who was a prisoner for no other crime than that he was an uninvited foreigner in central Morocco. Though it is a grievous sin for a Mohammedan to make a picture of any living thing, the young prince secretly took drawing lessons from the prisone: and had many talks with him about France. As the boy had been in high favor with his father it was thought that he might have imbibed from Mulai-Hassan the progressive tendencies that were manifest in the last years of his reign and that the accession of Mulai-Aziz to power might result in great good to his country.

The reports that have recently come from Morocco seem to justify the hope that Mulai-Aziz may modify or even uproot the fanatical regime that has kept Morocco almost wholly outside the pale of progressive influences. His father was rarely seen by a European except by diplomatic embassies, and then only for a couple of minutes when he received them seated on his horse; but in the past few months Mulai-Aziz has repeatedly con-versed with Mr. Walter B. Harris, one of the leading explorers of Morocco, and careful and conservative writer, who has outlined the sultan's scheme of reforms and says he is diligently looking among his officials for men whom he can trust to help him in carrying them out.

Inaccurate Sea Charts. From the London Express.

A chance word that fell from the lips of Commander Du Bois Phillips, R. N., the secretary of the Liverpool Geographical One of the more profitable outlets for its | Society, revealed to me in a moment what energies the new administration will find I had not previously realized-the reason again. It is that they are mischartedcharts. "If insurance companies," said Commander Phillips, "were not so busy competing for premiums, and if they would make correct and seaworthy charts a sine qua non of accepting a risk, the result would be less loss both in material and valuable lives." And Captain Phillips is right. But this, unfortunately, is just what the companies fail to realize, with the result that the matter of charts in the codi sult that the matter of charts in the ordi nary merchant vessel is entirely neglected As a matter of fact, numberless firms make captains find their own charts, which only too frequently results in ships going to sea with charts which in nur cases are rather a danger than a guide to

Japan's Silk Export. From Japan and America.

It is confidently expected that Japan will break all records in the exportation of silk during 1901. With a little more than two months to be heard from, the total value of these exports was 54,687,925 yen. The exports for November and December, togethports for November and December, together with the last week of October will probably reach 12,000,000 yen, which would bring the full total for the year up to some 66,000,000 yen, or an excess of several million yen over the highest previous record, that for laws. The price obtained for exported slik is a little lower than it was in 1899, but even with this consideration the